

TWO FARM HANDS

KILLED BY LIGHTNING

Clarence Phelps of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, and John Grandburg of Marine Mills, Minnesota,
Meet With Instant Death.

About 6:15 last Saturday morning, Clarence Phelps of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, and John Grandburg of Marine Mills, Minnesota, were instantly killed by lightning. Besides the two men, a horse, belonging to Fred Widlund, was also killed.

The men were threshing hands employed on the Widlund rig and were working on the Andrew Erickson farm, seven miles southeast of town, at the time of the accident. They were leaning against the door casing when the bolt struck them. The lightning first hit the peak of the barn and followed a 2x4 downwards, striking the track on which the door slides, then splitting, going in opposite directions killing the men who were on each side of the doorway. Mr. Phelps fell backward onto the dead horse and Mr. Grandburg fell across the side of a feed bin just inside the door.

Two other men, Joe Thomas and Peterson, were standing near, but aside from a severe shock and a few burns, came out of it lucky. Beside the two killed and Mr. Thomas and Mr. Peterson, four others who were near and three in the hay loft, were stunned and were a considerable time in recovering.

The dead bodies were carried

to the house and later taken to the undertaking rooms of John Syverson at Cooperstown, embalmed and made ready for shipment. They were shipped Monday to the home of relatives.

It is a very sad ending, especially so in the case of Mr. Phelps, who was only 29 years of age and had a wife and three children. Though little is known of him, it can be said that he was a kind and loving husband and father. He would keep up a regular correspondence with his loved ones at home. Both men were faithful workers. Mr. Grandburg was 21 years old.

A strange coincidence in connection with the death of Mr. Phelps is in the fact that about two months ago a man from Grantsburg, who was working for Mr. Widlund, was hit in the eye with a piece of iron, which necessitated his consulting a specialist at Fargo, where it was thought he would the sight of his eye. A little later another man from the same place, also employed by Mr. Widlund, was summoned home on account of the serious illness of his brother.

The news of the terrible accident last Saturday came as a surprise in Binford. Very little rain had fallen and no hard thunder reports were heard here. Mr. Widlund informs us that immediately after the lightning had done its damage the rain came down in torrents.